

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0536

November 2, 2011

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
US Department of the Army
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Secretary Darcy:

I am writing to request your attention to a long-term cost savings opportunity regarding dredging the entrance to the channel at the Marina del Rey, which houses key Federal and local first responders including the U.S. Coast Guard, Los Angeles County Sheriff, County Fire, search and rescue, and emergency response operations in Los Angeles County.

The Federally authorized channel has not been dredged to its 20 foot design-depth in over 11 years -- the normal dredging cycle for the harbor is every 5 years. Since the maintenance dredging at the Marina has been deferred, the north and south entrances of the harbor have become 55 percent and 45 percent closed.

There is a unique opportunity to undertake a full dredging of the harbor and disposal of both contaminated and clean sediment, at a fraction of the cost normally associated with a traditional dredge and disposal project that would cost at least \$85 million. The total cost of the project outlined below would be **\$19.6 million. The Corps has set aside \$5.4 million and LA County is expected to set aside \$5.5 million. This leaves an \$8.7 million shortfall that I request the Corps reprogram funds for its use on this project.**

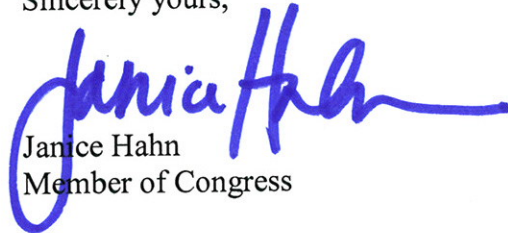
The Port of Long Beach has executed an agreement to become a disposal site for sediment -- including contaminated sediment -- dredged from Marina del Rey. The Port has already obtained all of the environmental permits to accept this sediment, which will in turn be used to support its Middle Harbor Project, an economic development initiative at the Port.

The Port is already moving forward with the Middle Harbor Project and has agreed to accept sediment **at no cost** for the duration of the project, which is currently scheduled for completion by the end of 2012. **As a result, the Marina del Rey dredging needs to be completed by that date.**

The Army Corps of Engineers' Los Angeles District Office is unable to proceed with this project since they do not have all of the funding.

I know that these are tight budget times, but the investment now will save funding in the future. Thank you for attention to this issue.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janice Hahn", with a stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress